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# How Army Viewed Spy Activities

BY WILLIAM KLING

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WASHINGTON, March 7 —

How the Army viewed its spying on civilians, officially admitted last week, is now public.

The scope and direction of the spying, as well as the reason some elected public officials, newsmen and prominent persons came under the scrutiny of intelligence agents, are reflected in the Army's civil disturbance information collection plan.

The 35-page document, drafted in 1968 with the cooperation of the Johnson administration's White House and Justice Department staffs, was rescinded by the Army last June 9 and unclassified by the Defense Department on Feb. 24.

## Approach to Mission

It tells how the Army approached its mission—the gathering of intelligence information to prepare for possible troop suppression of urban riots—and why, as Robert S. Frechke, assistant defense secretary for administration, told a Senate subcommittee last Tuesday, the Army became “overly enthusiastic” about the task.

“The current civil disturbance situation dictates a change in the degree to which the Army must seek advance information concerning potential and probable trouble areas and trouble makers,” said the document, dated May 2, 1968, and issued by the Army's then intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. William P. Yarborough.

The plan told of the need to know as much as possible about “the wellsprings of violence and the heart and nerve causes of chaos” so that the Army, if it were summoned to restore order during a civil disturbance, would have a clearer idea of what it was facing.

## A Better Chance

“To do less means the professional violence purveyors will have a better chance to achieve their end aims—law breaking, social disruption, chaos, violence, destruction, insurrection, revolution,” the document said.

The document warned, however, that the Army sought “only to collect that ‘information’ needed to exercise honest and sound judgment of the measures to be taken in suppressing rampant violence and restoring order.”

Undercover missions were barred except by “prior approval and direction” of intelligence headquarters. Many were authorized.

## Host of Agencies

Taking part in the information gathering were a host of Army and Defense Department agencies, plus Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard intelligence offices, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Subversive Activities Control Board and federal law enforcement and administrative agencies.

Intelligence agents were instructed to look for the presence of militant agitators in riot-prone cities, and increases in weapons thefts, inflammatory propaganda, riot rumors and “activity such as rabble-raising meetings and fiery agitation speeches of extremists [and] civil rights groups.”

Agents were told to seek the “identity of newspapers, radio and television stations, and prominent persons who are friendly with the leaders of the disturbance and are sympathetic with their plans.” Also sought were the identities of army military and civilian personnel “who are or may become involved on the side of the disturbers.”

## Spy on Chicagoans

Under this category, the Army kept dossiers on Sen. Stevenson and Rep. Abner J. Mikva, two liberal Chicago Democrats who Frechke admitted Tuesday had been intelligence subjects. Other Chicagoans were spied on as well.

Under “indicators of potential violence,” the Army wanted information on high minority-group unemployment and crime rates, income disparity between social groups, poor police-community relations, racial migration, and the lack of means for minority groups to redress grievances and communicate with police.

Agents were to investigate infiltration by the Communist Party, U. S. A., the American Nazi Party, the Nation of Islam, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the Progressive Labor Party.

## Alas and Activities

They also were to dig out the “alas and activities of groups attempting to create, prolong or aggravate racial tensions, such as C. O. R. E. [Congress of Racial Equality], N. A. A. C. P. [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People], S. N. C. C. [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee], National States Rights party, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Council of Federated Organizations.”

Frechke said the Army's spy activities were “unfortunate, but in some cases necessary.”

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